

THE

שְׁקֶל

SHEKEL



The Journal of Israel and Jewish History and Numismatics
Volume 49 No. 2, April May June 2016

'TO BIGOTRY NO SANCTION, TO PERSECUTION NO ASSISTANCE'



- Robert Oppenheimer's long journey
- Molly Goldberg featured on new medal
- Book Review: 'A Chiseler's True Story'
- Jewish-American Heritage Month celebrated

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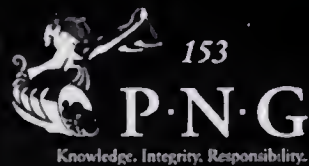
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Andrew Perala, Editor

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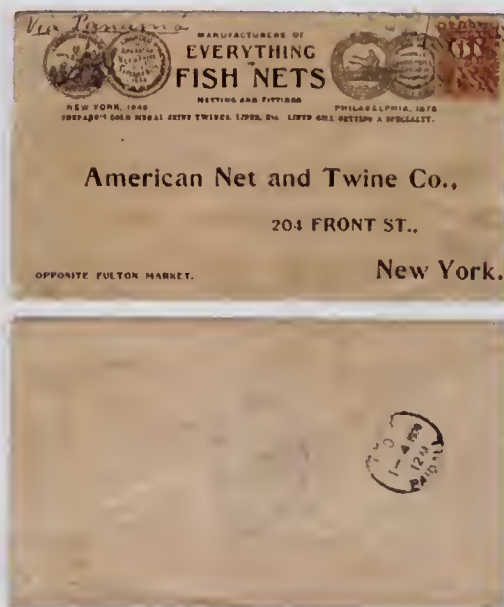
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CELEBRATE JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH WITH US

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On April 20, 2006, President George W. Bush proclaimed that May would be Jewish American Heritage Month.

The announcement was the crowning achievement in an effort by the Jewish Museum of Florida and South Florida Jewish community leaders that resulted in resolutions introduced by Representative Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D) of Florida and Senator Arlen Specter (R) of Pennsylvania urging the President to proclaim a month that would recognize the more than 350-year history of Jewish contributions to American culture.

The resolutions passed unanimously, first in the House of Representatives in December 2005 and later in the Senate in February 2006.

Most recently, President Barack Obama issued a proclamation on May 1, 2012 in which he stated that “generations of Jewish Americans have brought to bear some of our country’s greatest achievements and forever enriched our national life.”

It was an honor for me to be appointed to the Jewish American Heritage Month Advisory Committee last year. And so we are pleased to devote this issue of *The Shekel* exclusively to coins and medals with Jewish American themes.

I believe that this is the first time that any publication has commemorated Jewish American Heritage Month.

Lastly, I want to remind all of our members that our annual meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 10, from 1-3 p.m. at the World’s Fair of Money®, Anaheim Convention Center, near Disneyland.



*JEWISH AMERICAN
HERITAGE MONTH MAY 2016*

Please note that the annual meeting will be held on Wednesday this year so that we can meet jointly with the members of the Token and Medal Society. The meeting is free to all.

Attendees will hear an illustrated lecture by renowned sculptor/medallist Eugene Daub, who has created medals for the American Numismatic Society, the New York Numismatic Club, the Jewish-American Hall of Fame and many others.

Join us on August 10, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the World’s Fair of Money®, Anaheim Convention Center, near Disneyland.

Wishing you all the best,

LETTERS

Appreciation for 'The war of Quietus'

To the Editor:

It was delightful to open my issue of the "Shekel" (January-March 2016) and see David Hendin's by-line. The article did not disappoint. I learned a great deal about the War of Quietus.

I would like to add a few comments. Regarding nomenclature, it seems a little awkward to call the war a "Third Revolt."

The chronology is, in Mr. Hendin's words, "Jewish War (First Revolt 66-70 C.E.)," "war of Quietus" 115-117 C.E. and then "the Bar Kochba War (Second Revolt: 132-135 C.E.)"

Of course the reason for calling the belligerences "First" and "Second" is that they took place in Judaea, while the war of Quietus took place only in the provinces surrounding Judaea, and not within Judaea proper.

I think the Talmud neatly solves the problem. Mishna Sota 49a calls the First War, the War of Vespasian. The War of Quietus is left alone, and the Bar Kochba War is called "The Final War."

This is fitting since the Bar Kochba War marked the last time an independent Jewish state in Israel existed until 1948 C.E.

Further regarding Mishna Sota 49a, and Mr. Hendin's citation of the learned Rabbi Yablok, I think the rabbi is referencing that portion of the Mishna which reads as follows: (using the Soncino Talmud text)

"MISHNAH. DURING THE WAR WITH VESPASIAN THEY [THE RABBIS] DECREED AGAINST [THE USE OF] CROWNS WORN BY BRIDE-GROOMS AND AGAINST [THE USE OF] THE DRUM. DURING THE WAR OF QUIETUS THEY DECREED AGAINST [THE USE OF] CROWNS WORN BY BRIDES AND THAT NOBODY SHOULD TEACH HIS SON GREEK. DURING THE FINAL WAR THEY DECREED THAT A BRIDE SHOULD NOT GO OUT IN A PALANQUIN IN THE MIDST OF THE CITY, BUT OUR RABBIS DECREED THAT A BRIDE MAY GO OUT IN A PALANQUIN IN THE MIDST OF THE CITY."

Thus is derived the custom of eschewing crowns worn by brides.
Respectfully submitted,
Arthur Gershman



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TO BIGOTRY NO SANCTION

*A LOOK AT THE NUMEROUS MEDALS
COMMEMORATING THE TOURO SYNAGOGUE'S LEGACY*



By Robert Messing and Mel Wacks

Throughout its long history, the Jewish people have experienced many periods of persecution. State-sponsored persecution of Jews has occurred in many lands and over many eras. Whether it was under the Babylonians, the Romans, the Spanish Inquisition, the Crusaders or the Tsars - just to name a few - Jews knew what it meant to be a subjugated minority.

However, in August 1790, the Jews living in the young country called the United States of America received an unusual welcome. It came in the form of a letter sent to the Hebrew Congregation of Newport, Rhode Island, today known as the Touro Synagogue.

This letter was sent by George Washington, the first President of the

Above: The Touro Synagogue, Newport, Rhode Island.

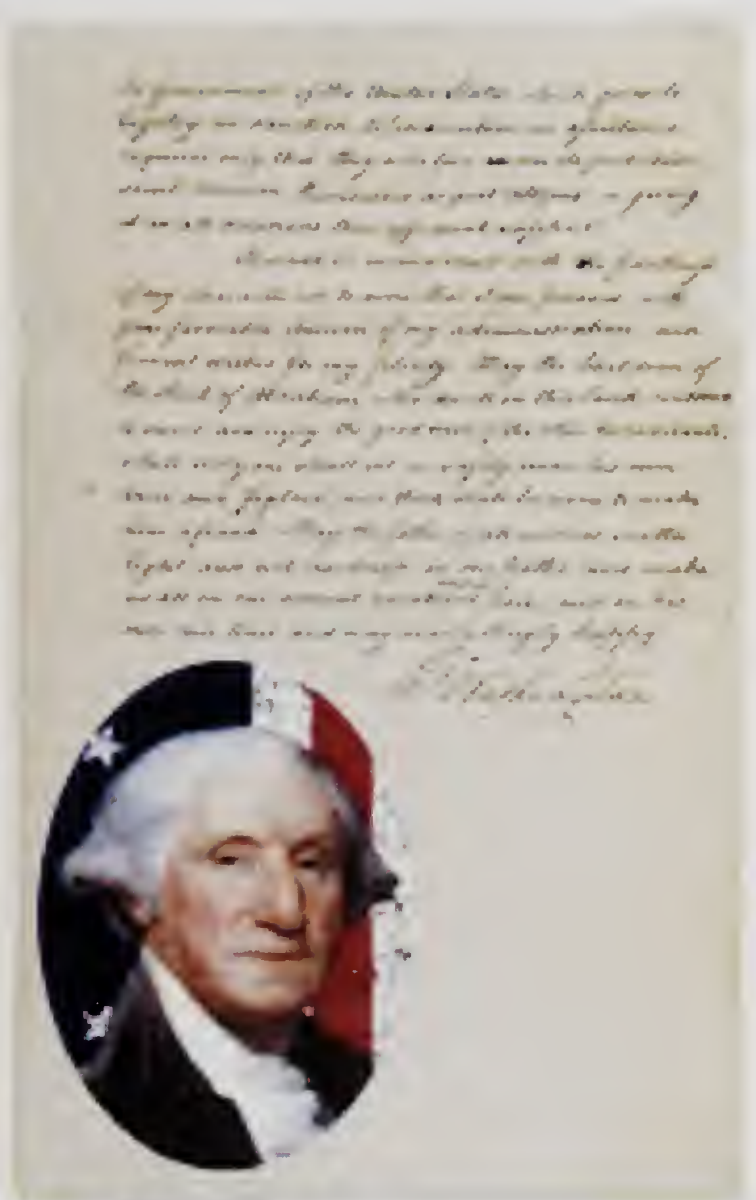
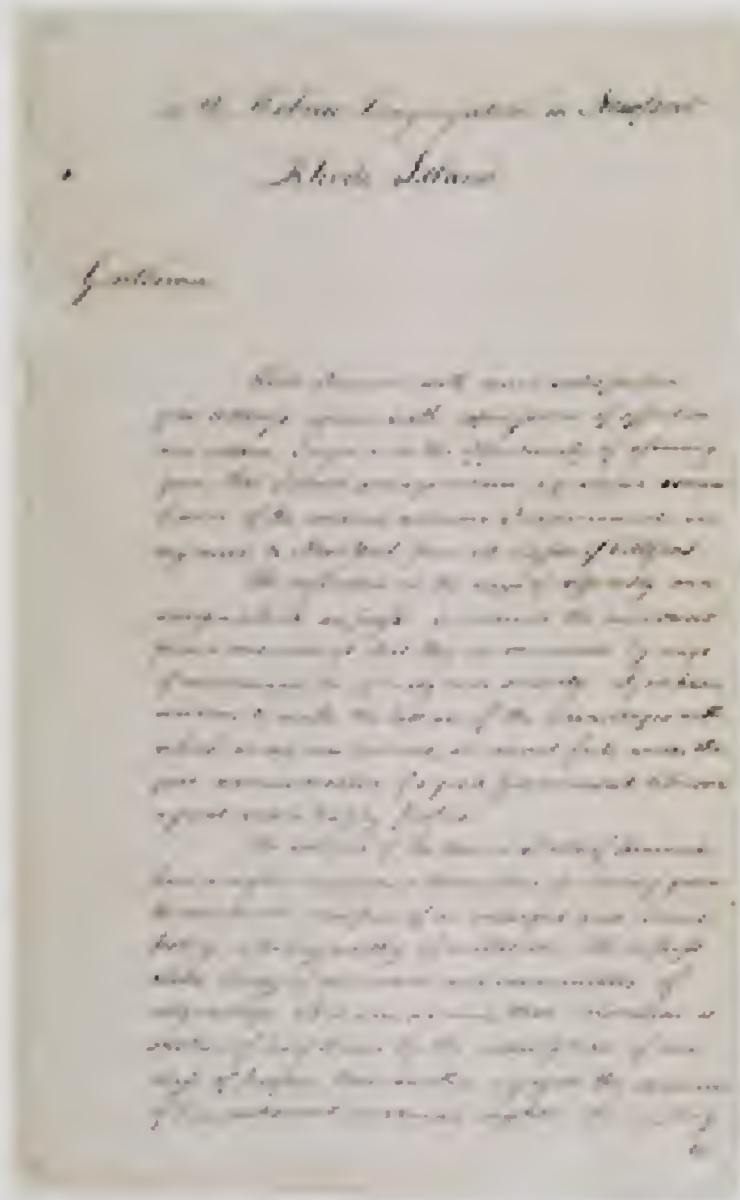


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U.S. Far from telling the Jews that they were again a subjugated people, Washington said that his government would be treating *all* American citizens, including Jews, as equals.

Specifically, the new U.S. government would “give to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance.” This meant the government was not only being tolerant of different

Continued



George Washington wrote this letter in August 1790 to the Hebrew Congregation of Newport, Rhode Island, repeating the words that Moses Seixas made in a congratulatory address to Washington on Aug. 17, 1790, on the occasion of his visit to the city - stating that the new United States government would "give to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance."

Continued
 religious beliefs but granting all of its citizens full liberty of conscience.

Washington was paving the way for the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which “prohibits the making of any law respecting an establishment of religion and impeding the free exercise of religion.

This was adopted on Dec. 15, 1791, as one of the ten Amendments that constitute the Bill of Rights.

Washington was very specific about the recipients of his letter, which stated, “May the children of the Stock of Abraham who dwell in this land, continue to merit and enjoy the good

will of the other inhabitants; ‘while every one shall sit in safety under his own vine and fig tree, and there shall be none to make him afraid’.” (The end of Washington’s quotation is taken from the Book of the prophet Micah, chapter four verse four.)

In the more than 3,500 years of Jewish history, America’s treatment of its Jewish inhabitants is one of its glorious high points.

A number of medals have been issued featuring the Touro Synagogue and quotations from Washington’s historic letter. On the following pages are a sampling of some of them.

Continued



Medal sold at the Touro Synagogue, Newport. R.I.

Obverse: A picture of the Touro Synagogue. Circling the synagogue are the words "Touro Synagogue. 1763. Newport, R.I.: National Historic Site".

Reverse: Gentlemen....For happily the Government of the United States, which gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance..." George Washington to the Hebrew Congregation of Newport, 1790.



B'nai B'rith American Freedom series

George Washington/The Letter to the Touro Synagogue medal.

Obverse: Profile of George Washington with text "To Bigotry No Sanction, To Persecution No Assistance". Signature of George Washington. "Letter to the Touro Synagogue, August, 1790".

Reverse: A Menorah and an image of the Synagogue with the text "B'nai B'rith American Freedom Series – In the tradition of Religious Liberty".

Continued



Photos courtesy Goldberg Auctions

American Revolution Bicentennial Medal issued by American Israel Numismatic Association. Medal is 14kt gold (1.3 troy oz); also issued in bronze and silver. Obverse features portrait of George Washington, derived from bust sculpted by Jean-Antoine Houdon; below are the initials E.J. for Ed Janis, who coordinated the medals, and Washington's signature. The portrait is surrounded by the immortal words "To bigotry no sanction. To persecution no assistance." Reverse depicts AINA's seal, designed by Ned Sobel.



Photos courtesy Mel Wacks

Jewish American Hall of Fame Touro Synagogue Medal

Obverse: Picture of the Touro Synagogue. Along the circumference, "Touro Synagogue Newport, Rhode Island, Dedicated 1763, National Historic Site".

Reverse: Three Torah scrolls with crowns. Entwined among the scrolls are the words, "The United States gives to bigotry no sanction to persecution, no assistance." - George Washington. Designed by Victor Ries.

Continued



Judaic Heritage Society Touro Synagogue issued in The Medalllic History of the Jews of America series, struck by the Franklin Mint in 1976. 38mm, 34 gm. Sterling silver.



Photos courtesy historama.com.
Bicentennial of the Washington Letter. Issued in 1991, cast in silver-plated bronze, 72.3 mm, designed by Barry Silverman.

Continued



Photo courtesy Mel Wacks

350 Years of Jewish life in America. The official medal commemorating 350 Years of Jewish Life in America was issued in 2004, designed by Dana Krinsky. It features an extensive quote from Wahington's letter to Seixas, including the immortal words "For happily the government of the United States gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance."



Drawing courtesy Mel Wacks

Proposed design by Joel Iskowitz for the Rhode Island "America the Beautiful" Quarter, but Rhode Island instead chose to depict Block Island National Wildlife Refuge on their quarter dollars to be issued in 2018.



United States of America
Commemorative Postage Stamp
On August 22, 1982, the United States Postal Authority issued a 20-cent stamp portraying the Touro Synagogue in Newport, Rhode Island. Designed by Donald Moss.



WASHINGTON'S HISTORIC LETTER AN AMBASSADOR OF JEWISH LIFE IN AMERICA

After Moses Seixas received Washington's letter, it remained in the Seixas family for more than 150 years. The National Archives reveal that the owner of the letter in the late 1940s was Howard Milkman Sr., the great-great-grandson of Moses Seixas.

From 1947 to 1949, the letter was included with other historic documents displayed on the Freedom Train that travelled across the country (including the the Magna Carta, the Declaration of Independence, the Bill of Rights, one of the 13 original copies of the Constitution, the Emancipation Proclamation, the Gettysburg Address, the Iwo Jima flag, the German and Japa-

Above: The Freedom Train that traversed the United States from 1947 to 1949 carried George Washington's letter to the forerunner of today's Touro Synagogue among its historic documents. The journey proved momentous for the letter and its future role in highlighting Jewish American life.



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nese surrender documents that ended World War II, and much more).

Continued



New York real estate tycoon Morris Morgenstern was so entranced by George Washington's letter when he first viewed it on the Freedom Train that he eventually purchased the document. His foundation continues the mission of above. Above, a medal presented in the Salute to Youth on Feb. 22, 1956.

Continued

According to minutes of a Touro Synagogue board meeting, Morris Morgenstern saw the letter aboard the Freedom Train, and arranged to purchase it from Milkman, who had converted to Christianity in 1944, after his marriage.

The son of Austrian immigrants, Morgenstern grew up poor on Manhattan's Lower East Side before making his fortune in real estate. After he bought the letter, he enlisted the help of up-and-coming Jewish marketing maestro Howard Rubenstein, and between the two of them they came up with an idea to promote the letter.

Morgenstern made copies of the original and had them framed. He turned them into the Morris Morgenstern Foundation Award and presented them to deserving people. Morgenstern also created a medal featuring the quote "To bigotry no sanction," that

was presented in a Salute to Youth on Washington's birthday - Feb. 22, 1956.

The Morgenstern Foundation loaned the Washington "To bigotry no sanction" letter to the Library of Congress to mark the 350th anniversary of Jewish settlement in America, and it is presented online by that institution as one of the greatest documents in American history.

Through 2023, it will be displayed for four months per year at the National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia.

David Redden, a Sotheby's vice chairman, recently estimated that the letter could fetch between \$5 million and \$10 million at auction, but the Morgenstern Foundation has not indicated that it has any intentions of parting with it. □

Bibliography: www.forward.com, "Washington's Iconic Letter To Be Displayed, by Paul Berger; December 27, 2011."

COMMEMORATIVE EINSTEIN COUNTERSTAMP

*RARE COUNTERSTAMPED 1915 U.S. 50-CENT PIECES
HONOR SCIENTIST, GENERAL RELATIVITY THEORY*



Only 100 of these counter-stamped 1915 U.S. Barber half dollars were struck. They quickly sold out.

Albert Einstein was a citizen of three countries - his birthplace Germany, Switzerland and the United States. Germany and Switzerland have issued coins to commemorate him, as have countries whose connections with Einstein have ranged from close (Israel) to tenuous (Canada, China, France, Paraguay, San Marino, and Thailand).

While the United States issued stamps in honor of Einstein in 1966 and again in 1979, his adopted



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country has never issued a coin in honor of the scientist who was named "Person of the Century" by *Time Magazine*.

Mel Wacks, director of the Jewish-American Hall of Fame hopes that the United States will someday issue a commemorative coin to honor Albert Einstein, but in the interim he has created counterstamped U.S. coins to celebrate

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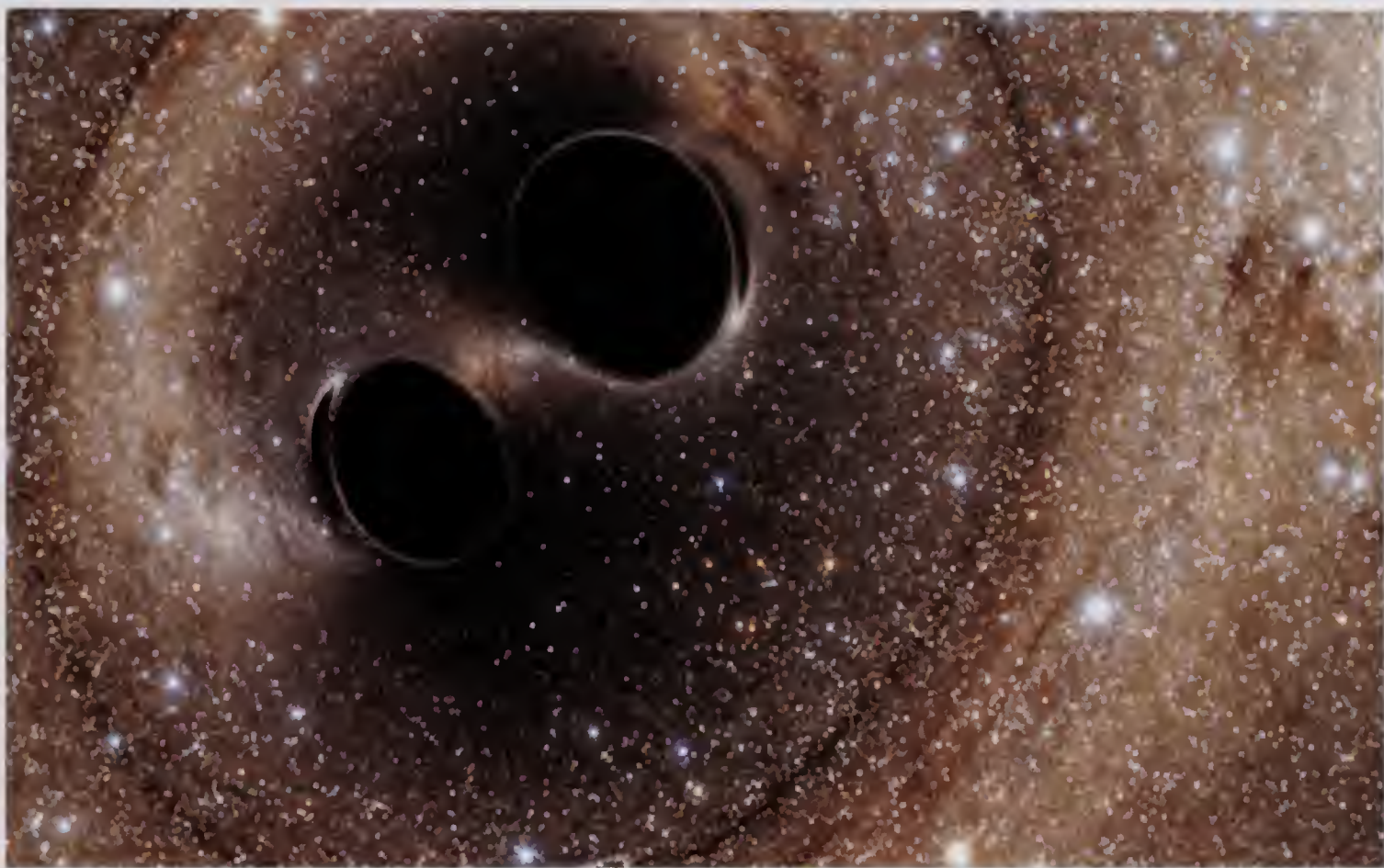


Image credit: The SXS (Simulating eXtreme Spacetimes) Project
A team of scientists announced in February 2016 that they had heard and recorded the sound of two black holes colliding a billion light-years away, a fleeting chirp that fulfilled the last prediction of Einstein's Theory of General Relativity.

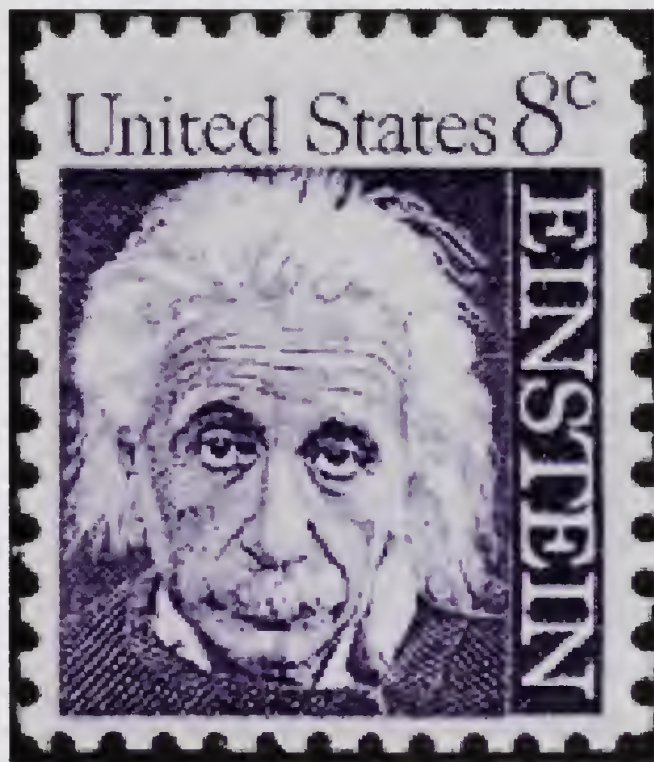
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the 100th anniversary of Einstein's Theory of General Relativity.

Wacks states that "Nothing like this has ever been done before. I discovered and purchased a hoard of 100 1915 Barber Half Dollars in undamaged circulated condition, and in turn these have been counterstamped on the obverse with the likeness of Einstein and an appropriate inscription."

Einstein published his Theory of General Relativity in 1915. In it, he determined that massive objects cause a distortion in space-time, which is felt as gravity.

Imagine setting a large body in the center of a trampoline. The body would press down into the fabric, causing it to dimple. A marble rolled around the edge



The 8-cent violet Einstein stamp was issued in Princeton, New Jersey, on March 14, 1966. The stamp, designed by Frank Sebastiano, was based on a photograph taken in 1946 by Philippe Halsman. Arthur W. Dintaman engraved the vignette, and George A. Payne engraved the lettering. This was the first time Einstein appeared on a U.S. postage stamp.

Continued



Image credit: LIGO HANFORD WASHINGTON/CALTECH

Each of the twin arms of a LIGO observatory is four kilometers (2.4 miles) in length. A LIGO laser and mirror array is capable of measuring a gravitational shift of 1/10,000th the width of a proton.

Continued

would spiral inward toward the body, pulled in much the same way that the gravity of a planet pulls at rocks in space.

These counterstamped coins also serve to commemorate the confirmation by scientists of the last prediction of Einstein's Theory of General Relativity - of gravitational waves. The gravitational waves were detected on September 14, 2015 at 5:51 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time (09:51 UTC) by both of the twin Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory (LIGO) detectors, located in Livingston, Louisiana, and Hanford, Washington, USA.

The faint rising tone of the twin LIGO detectors - one in Louisiana, one in Washington state - physicists say, is the first direct evidence of gravitational waves, the ripples in

the fabric of space-time that Einstein predicted a century ago.

The detection of gravitational waves completes Einstein's vision of a universe in which space and time are interwoven and dynamic, able to stretch, shrink and jiggle.

And it is a ringing confirmation of the nature of black holes, the bottomless gravitational pits from which not even light can escape, which were the most foreboding (and unwelcome) part of his theory.

More generally, it means that a century of innovation, testing, questioning and plain hard work after Einstein imagined it on paper, scientists have finally tapped into the deepest register of physical reality, where the weirdest and wildest implications of Einstein's universe become manifest. ▢

Bibliography: www.nytimes.com,
www.ligo.caltech.edu

Daughters in Israel, a Unique Maryland Institution



By Simcha Kuritzky

Baltimore City was founded in 1729. Jews were made citizens of Maryland in 1776 and given the right to hold public office in 1826, when about 125 Jews lived in the city. They founded the first synagogue in 1830 and first Jewish charity in 1834.

The population grew steadily, reaching 1,000 around 1840, then shot up as Jews fled failed revolutions in the Germanies in 1849.

By 1860, there were 8,000 Jews in Baltimore and three religious movements: Reform, Orthodox, and moderate traditional (a precursor to the Conservative Movement). As the Jewish population grew, so did the number of charities.

The subject of this article is the Daughters in Israel women's group founded Nov. 9, 1890 (Jewish year 5651). By that time, Baltimore's Jewish

Above: An engraved U.S. 10-cent coin that served as a badge for the Daughters in Israel. The lettering suggests to the author this example is not a first-edition badge.



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community was split into two distinct groups: the “uptown” or German Jews, who were already well established, and the “downtown” or Russian Jews, who were still arriving from Europe.

The Daughters in Israel was a sisterhood with a unique structure. It was not associated with a particular synagogue. Each member was part of a group of

Continued



An engraved U.S. 10-cent coin was the badge of the Daughters in Israel. The author considers this example with a loop as possibly one of the first created for the organization.

Continued

10 women, called a band, circle, or ten (they would not even think of calling it a *minyan*). Each band was devoted to a specific purpose such as sewing, teaching immigrants English, giving parenting classes, and providing candies to impoverished children attending Hebrew school. They limited the circle size to ten so that it was large enough to do real work yet small enough that no one would attend merely for social reasons. Each band had its own officers, finances, and personal service work. It reported to the general organization at least twice a year, which would then produce a report of the organization's overall accomplishments. The two mottoes of Daughters in Israel were "Love your neighbor as yourself" (*Leviticus 19:15*) and "Whatsoever your hand finds to do, do it with your might" (*Ecclesiastes 9:10*).

In order to lend some sense of unity to the membership, they were required to wear the organization's badge, engraved on a U.S. silver 10-cent coin, or dime. One side has the organization name and

founding Hebrew date, all in English, with well-formed letters and simple scrollwork. The reverse Hebrew inscription, also surrounded by a circle, is the motto וְאַהַבְתָּ לְרֵעֶךָ כְּנִפְּךָ *v'ahavta lirakha kamokha* "Love your neighbor as yourself."

On this specimen, the Hebrew is readable but the *mem* has the wrong proportions and the *kholem vov* looks more like a *resh*. What makes this piece unusual among Hebrew engravings is that it includes the *nekudot* and *dageshim* (diacritical marks). What is most likely is that the engraver did not know Hebrew but copied the text directly from a printed Hebrew Bible. If this badge was worn, it must have been in a bezel since there is no sign of a loop or hole.

The Jewish Museum of Maryland, in Baltimore, also has an engraved dime badge. Theirs seems to be more expertly engraved, and the Hebrew is well formed and without the vowels and diacritical marks. Their copy has a loop for wearing. The author suspects the

Continued

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Museum copy is one of the original dimes engraved for the organization, while the one from his own collection was engraved for someone who joined later.

The Daughters in Israel's first president was Mrs. Bertha Rayner Frank (shown in the photo at right). She founded the Frank Sabbath School in 1887, which gave free religious lessons to immigrants Saturday afternoons. The Daughters in Israel's headquarters opened Oct. 17, 1893 at 1310 East Baltimore Street. The 1900 *Jewish*

American Year Book (first edition) lists the Daughters in Israel's membership at 200 and annual expenditures of \$2,500.

In 1899, the focus of the Daughters in Israel changed to supporting a Working Girls' Home which trained orphaned girls to work a trade (shown in the photo above). This followed by three years a similar home for teen boys and young men that was created by the Maccabeans. As the Jewish community grew, so did the number of charities with much duplication. The Jewish community decided to coordinate the various charities by placing them under umbrella organizations. The German Jewish charities in Baltimore were placed under the Federated Jewish Charities in 1906, while the Russian charities were placed under the United Hebrew Charities the next year. In 1909, the Daughters in Israel and the Maccabeans together formed the Jewish Educational Alli-



At right: Bertha Rayner Frank, the group's first president. Above: The group's Working Girls Home for orphaned girls.

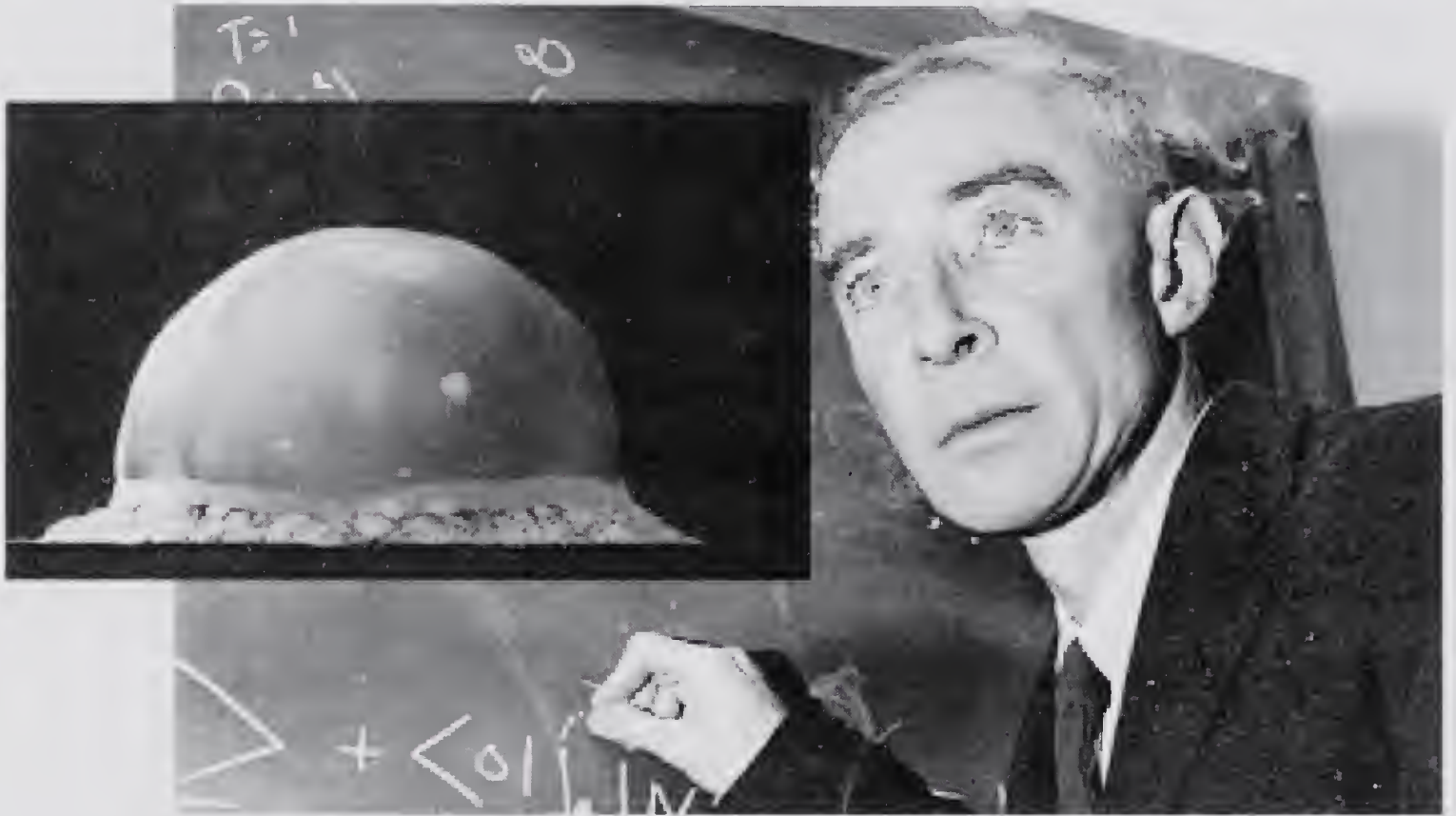


ance to provide classes for immigrants and sponsor youth clubs. In 1913, the Federation incorporated the Jewish Children's Bureau with 350 beneficiaries, composed of a number of charities including Daughters in Israel. In 1917, the Daughters in Israel opened a vacation home in the Blue Ridge Mountains so the residents of the Girls' and Boys' Working Homes could get out of the city for a week in the summer time. This eventually became Camp Louise, which is in existence today.

The Federation was succeeded by the Associated Jewish Charities in 1920 (now called The Associated Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore). By this time, Jews fleeing Russian persecution and the Great War pushed Baltimore's Jewish population over 60,000.

The Daughters in Israel dissolved in 1924 and their work was divided up among other charities. □

Robert Oppenheimer: Mission of Destruction



Collage of Robert Oppenheimer, director of the Los Alamos laboratory in New Mexico and the massive WWII effort to understand the physics of the world's first nuclear weapon; shown adjacent to a radiation-damaged photograph of the first test of the first atomic bomb, Trinity, and its 200-meter fireball .016 seconds after detonation on July 16, 1945.

By Andrew Perala

Despite three years preparation by most of the world's most brilliant physicists to design the world's first atomic bomb, no one knew what would happen when the "Detonate" button was pushed.

Politician and military leaders were among the 400 witnesses to the historic test on July 16, 1945. But the physicists were professionally and personally nervous.

The director of the science lab where nuclear fission was worked out mathematically before such energies could be used as a weapon,



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Robert Oppenheimer may have been the most worried of all.

Because none of the scientists could state categorically they knew what would happen. The test device, code-named Trinity and believed to have the potential to

Continued

In 1963, {resident Lyndon Johnson presented Robert Oppenheimer with the Atomic Energy Commission's prestigious Fermi medal, which recognized his brilliant work in physics, but was also an apology for the 1954 hearings that removed his national security clearance, effectively ending his government service to the United States.



Continued
release the equivalent of 20,000 tons of TNT in one massive explosion, could fizzle, could succeed beyond all expectations or as some believed possible, could ignite the Earth's entire atmosphere on fire in a global fireball.

The last was a remote but not zero possibility so unthinkable that no one would have dared go forward with the Trinity test if World War II was not still raging in both the European and Pacific theaters.

But with Germany still uncowed and the Japanese Imperial forces resorting to suicide before surrender, 1945 was a desperate time.

That widely held view of today was absolutely true in early 1941 when the governments of the United States and Great Britain jointly decided to pay any price to develop an atomic bomb. Their respective intelligence services had determined that Germany was pur-

suing atomic weapon development to use against the Allies.

Thus was the Manhattan Project born.

In the U.S. Army's official records, a 1985 history of the Manhattan Project by author Vincent Jones, "Manhattan: The Army and the Atomic Bomb" (Washington, DC: United States Army Center of Military History) the project moved forward swiftly.

In June 1942, the U.S. Army was assigned overall control, with Brigadier General Leslie R. Groves, Jr., appointed as its director in September 1942.

Organizing the massive amounts of material, supplies and hundreds of thousands of technicians and scientists, as well building entire and at the time secret cities, required deep experience in such logistics. Gen. Groves proved to be the right choice for the gigantic

Continued



A medal from 1987, 20 years after Oppenheimer's passing, depicts in three-quarter profile the great Jewish American physicist and leader of the team that developed the atomic bomb.

Continued
task.

But the truly critical part - weapons development without which the project would have been doomed to failure - was located at the Los Alamos Laboratory in northern New Mexico, under the directorship of physicist J. Robert Oppenheimer. Oppenheimer was on the faculty at the University of California-Berkely at the time. He recruited the elite physicists from UCB as well as the University of Chicago, Columbia University and the Radiation Laboratory at UCB to aid in the war project.

///

There was an absolute need to stop the German military war machine. At the beginning of Manhattan Project, the blitzkrieg tactics of the German army had swept through nations and threatened to swallow the world.

But this need propelled science forward with consequences unfore-

seen at the time.

The birth of the Manhattan Project would also usher in the single-bomb Age of Mass Destruction.

Oppenheimer did his patriotic duty in directing hundreds of scientists and thousands of technicians who would ultimately work on the project, including Nobel Prize winner Enrico Fermi, Hans Bethe who would soon figure out the complex four-step process in the nuclear physics of fusion that is at the heart of all stars, and future Nobel Prize winner Richard Feynman, whose yet to be discovered eponymous diagrams would become the first to posit sub-atomic particles travelling backward in time.

Indeed, the bongo-playing Feynman would later claim to be the only witness to the first test of an atomic bomb - Trinity - who would not wear protective goggles during the blast. Feynman opted instead to trust his knowledge of physics,

Continued



I am become Death, the destroyer of worlds

Continued

and the glass of a truck's windshield, to protect his retinas from ultraviolet light blindness. His reasoning was correct.

The Trinity blast exceeded expectations, which were not fully understood beforehand as nothing man-made in history had detonated with such force.

In the analyses following the test, the Trinity blast was estimated to be the equivalent of 18,000 tons of TNT exploding at once.

At the test site in the New Mexico desert on that day in July 1945, Oppenheimer watched the device explode, and witnessed the birth of a new sun, though brief in life, from the wire wrapped device that just

moments before sat atop a 100-foot tall steel tower.

Oppenheimer watched the multi-million degree ball of fire rise above

the desert floor, sucking in great streams of dust as the ball transformed into a rotating torus, and then into a giant mushroom shaped cloud rising 40,000 feet above the New Mexican desert at dawn that historic day.

Years later, Oppenheimer would recall:

"We knew the world would not be the same. A few people laughed, a few people cried. Most people were silent. I remembered the line from the Hindu scripture, the Bhagavad-Gita; Vishnu is trying to persuade

Continued

Continued

the Prince that he should do his duty, and to impress him, takes on his multi-armed form and says, 'Now I am become Death, the destroyer of worlds.' I suppose we all thought that, one way or another."

Though he never publicly wavered in his belief that developing the atomic bomb was critical to defeating the Axis powers and ending the most destructive war in history, Oppenheimer's shock at the total destruction caused by the Trinity test would not subside.

The next war could be fought with nuclear weapons, and end everything.

After WWII, Oppenheimer was appointed chairman of the General Advisory Committee to the Atomic Energy Commission, serving from 1947 to 1952.

During his term, the U.S. became fully engaged in the development of an even more powerful weapon, the hydrogen bomb.

While the atomic bomb relies on splitting Uranium atoms to generate energy - converting small amounts of mass to gigantic amounts of energy, a process summarized succinctly in Einstein's revolutionary equation $E=mc^2$.

To achieve its far greater yield, a hydrogen bomb relies not on the splitting of atoms but on the fusing of atoms - fusion, the same process found in the heart of stars.

To kick start fusion in a weapon, hydrogen bombs require the detona-



A one-ounce silver bar commemorates the life work Robert Oppenheimer.

tion of an atomic bomb inside the mechanism. Various materials focus the energy of the atomic blast just long enough to trigger fusion before the device is obliterated. Nuclear weapons are grossly inefficient, converting only a fraction of a percent of mass in the earliest devices into pure energy. But the conversion yields mind-boggling amounts of energy.

Atomic bomb blasts typically are measured in thousands of tons of TNT equivalent. Hydrogen bomb blasts are measured in millions of tons of TNT.

As aware as Oppenheimer was of the power of the atomic bomb, it is fair to say he was horrified by the destructive potential of the hydrogen bomb.

As chair of the Advisory committee he lobbied for international control of all nuclear power to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and to prevent a nuclear arms race with the Soviet Union.

He also spoke out repeatedly against the development of the hydrogen bomb.

At this point in U.S. history, the

Continued



U.S. soldiers watch the rising mushroom cloud from the explosion of history's first atomic bomb, Alamogordo, New Mexico, July 16, 1945,

Continued

Red Scare was taking full flight. It would culminate in the McCarthy hearings and the hearings of the House Un-American Activities Committee. Careers and lives were ruined in the hunt for Communists in the U.S.

Oppenheimer fell victim to a 1954 hearing of the Atomic Energy Commission and was stripped of his national security clearance.

But even as Robert Oppenheimer was locked out of the national nuclear laboratory he helped build, and locked out as well to all access to U.S. government research and action on nuclear weapons, Oppenheimer never wavered in his belief that the atomic bomb had to be developed and built to end the war of wars.

"We had to stop the Nazis," Oppenheimer repeated in later inter-

views.

As has been noted elsewhere, as a Jew, Oppenheimer was aware of man's capacity to harm man before the full scope of the Holocaust unfolding across Europe became widely known. He knew also of the Nazi research into heavy water, another route to developing the science needed to produce enough fissionable material to create an atomic bomb.

And it was this combination of knowledge that hardened Oppenheimer to do the job that needed to be done.

Recognized by his peers for his genius in the highly rarified mathematics of nuclear physics, Oppenheimer along with every other scientist present were shaken by the enormity of the Trinity blast. He retreated from government service,

Continued



Above: A bronze medal of unknown origin with Robert Oppenheimer's profile.

At right: Robert Oppenheimer, left, inspects the remains of the 100-foot tall Trinity steel tower with Brig. Gen. Leslie Groves after the July 16, 1945 explosion of the first atomic bomb.



Continued

but not from science.

Appointed director of the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, N.J. in 1947, he continued in that position until 1966, and is credited with laying some of the foundations of quantum physics, black hole research and numerous other exceedingly challenging fields.

As noted in a PBS biography, Robert Oppenheimer was born April 22, 1904, “into a wealthy, New York, Jewish family. They lived in an apartment overlooking the Hudson River and vacationed in a summer home on Long Island. As a 17-year-old, Oppenheimer went to Harvard where a classmate says he “intellectually looted the place.”

As several have noted, it wasn't until after Harvard that Oppenheimer found his “intellectual passion” and blossomed into a world-class physicist. He studied at

Cambridge University in England and then at Göttingen University in Germany.

When he returned to the U.S. in 1929, Oppenheimer was “making his mark in quantum theory” with more than a dozen peer-reviewed articles that firmly established his reputation as a theoretical physicist.

He also brought home a commitment to injustice, believed now to have been fired in part by the rise of Nazi politics in Germany and the worsening anti-Semitic laws there.

But others have stated Oppenheimer was reacting to the Great Depression when many of his proteges and students could not find employment.

“I began to understand how deeply political and economic events could affect men's lives,” he said.

Robert Oppenheimer died of throat cancer in Princeton, N.J., on Feb. 18, 1967. ▢

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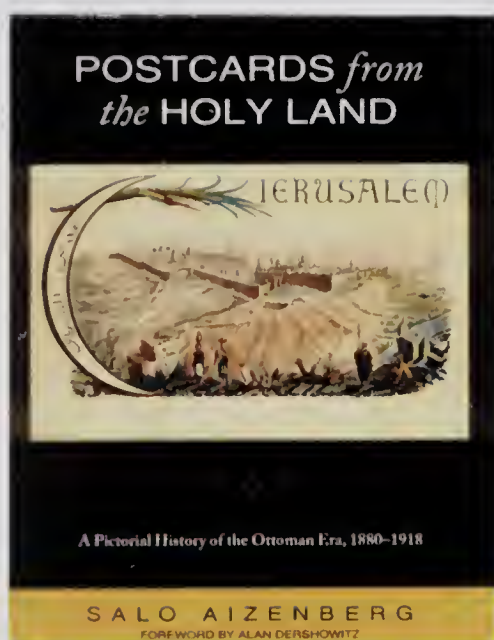
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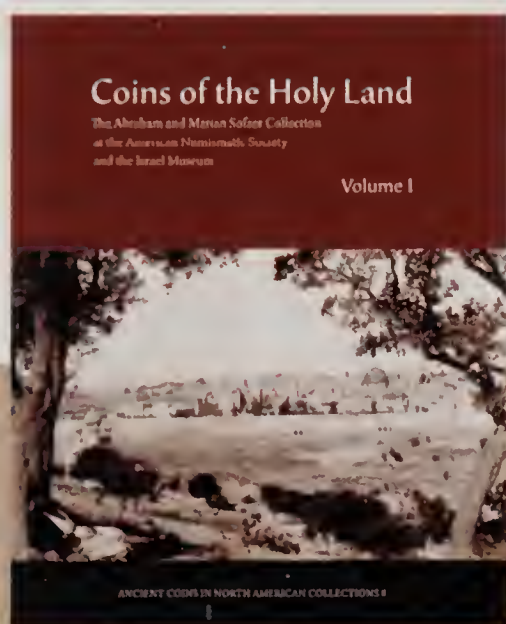
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Coins of the Holy Land:

The Abraham and Marian Sofaer Collection at the American Numismatic Society and the Israel Museum

American Numismatic Society Publications

Hardcover, 2 Volumes,
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Ancient Coins in North American Collections 8 (ACNAC 8) 2013

The Abraham and Marian Sofaer collection consists of 4,000 coins and related objects produced by the peoples who inhabited the Holy Land from the Persian period in the 5th and 4th centuries BCE through the Crusader Kingdom in the 13th century of the modern era. Assembled over more than 30 years, the collection contains gold, silver, and bronze coins of the Persians, Greeks, Samaritans, Jews, Nabataeans, Romans, Byzantines, Arabs, and Crusaders.

The book was written by Ya'akov Meshorer with Gabriela Bijovsky and Wolfgang Fischer-Bossert, and edited by David Hendin and Andrew Meadows.

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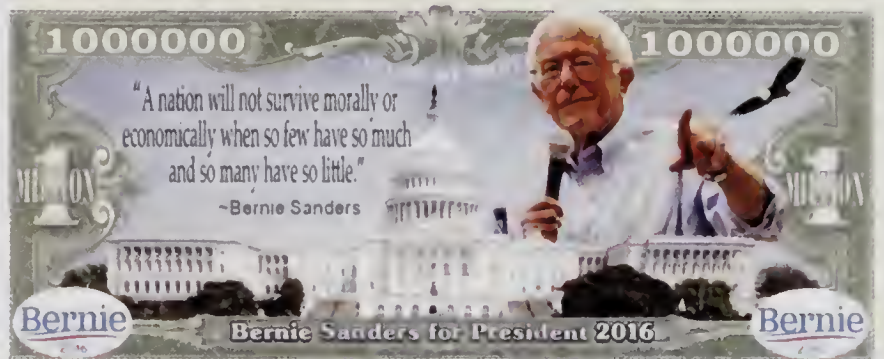
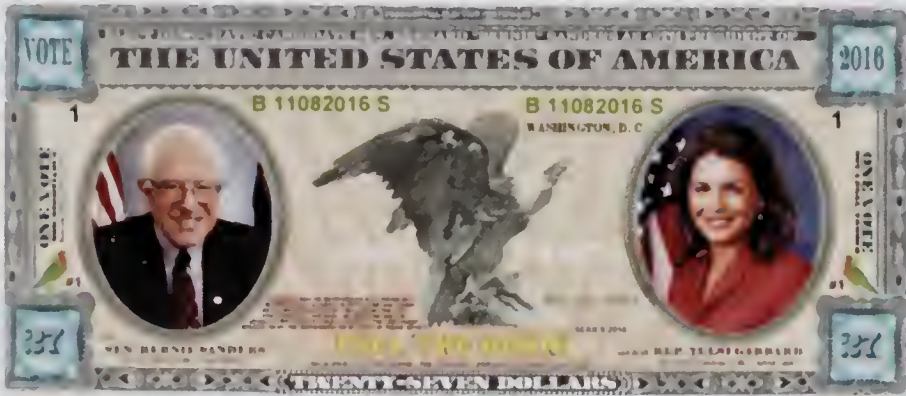
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Publishes a bimonthly journal, has a library available to members, and an annual meeting at the ANA. TAMS and AINA jointly sponsor the Ben Odesser Award for the Best Article in "The Shekel." Dues are \$25 (U.S.) and \$30 (non-U.S.). Send to TAMS, c/o Mark Lighterman, 5224 W. State Rd 46, No. 408, Sanford, FL 32771.



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\$27 AND \$1 MILLION BERNIE SANDERS FANTASY NOTES ISSUED



The fantasy \$27 banknotes with Sen. Bernie Sanders (D-Vermont) and U.S. Congressional Representative Tulsi Gabbard (D-Hawaii) are being offered for \$2.50 each by www.robertsworldmoney.com. Numerous eBay vendors are offering the million-dollar notes.

Bernie Sanders, the first Jewish candidate for President who has won delegates in primaries or caucuses, inspired artist Rick Reed to create a fantasy \$27 banknote. The reason for this unusual denomination follows from the average contribution to Sanders' campaign of \$27. The note also features Tulsi Gabbard, who has been the United States Representative for Hawaii's 2nd congressional district since 2013. Numerous vendors on eBay are offering the Sanders million-dollar banknote. ☐

TEMPLE ISRAEL OF CHARLOTTE, N.C. CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

Uniface commemorative medal, 1949; struck in bronze; manufactured by Whitehead & Hoag (of New Jersey); size: 75.75mm; weight: 149.4g. Issued to commemorate the relocation of the congregation from its present Synagogue to a newer, larger structure depicted on the medal.



Temple Israel was formed in 1916. The first building was on West Seventh Street. In 1955, the synagogue moved to 1014 Dilworth Road. This building was demolished in the early 1990s when the congregation moved to new facilities at Shalom Park off of Providence Road.

With the great wave of immigration of Jews from Eastern Europe occurring in the late 19th century, new settlers came to Charlotte. This group also was deeply religious and brought with them their own customs and attitudes. In September 1895, these new



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citizens organized the first formal Jewish congregation of the city of Charlotte.

This congregation was the forerunner of what is now Temple Israel. They called themselves Agudath Achim, Hebrew United Brotherhood. The group was headed by Harris Miller, Benjamin Silverstein, and Mr. C. Lubin.

Continued



Photo courtesy www.historama.com

The Temple Israel Synagogue in Charlotte, N.C., has grown and evolved since it was first founded in 1916. Though the congregation was established in 1895 (in Charlotte, North Carolina), the building it vacated in 1949 was established in 1915. The new building's cornerstone was laid in January 1949, and the congregation celebrated its first services in the structure in September of that year, prior to Rosh HaShana (the Jewish New Year).

Continued

By 1915, now “Temple Israel” had constructed its first building and the number of families grew to more than 100. Two minyans existed at the Temple, one Orthodox and one Conservative.

Eventually, the younger members persuaded the congregation to adopt a stance of worship leading more toward “Conservatism.” This gave way to mixed seating and more use of English in the service.

By 1949, Temple Israel had outgrown its building on Seventh Street and relocated to the Dilworth neighborhood of South

Charlotte. By 1955, Temple Israel had the largest membership of any Jewish congregation in the Carolinas with more than 350 member families.

In 1985, the synagogue adopted an egalitarian policy for worship, granting women full rights at services to read from the Torah, lead song, and lead prayer.

In 1991, Temple Israel broke ground in Shalom Park of South Charlotte and began construction on its current building. The year 1992 marked the completion of the congregation’s third new building.

Bibliography: Wikipedia.com

NEW JEWISH-AMERICAN HALL OF FAME MEDAL RELEASED

"THE GOLDBERGS" SUCCESSFUL HIT RADIO SHOW BECAME TELEVISION'S FIRST SMASH SITCOM



Gertrude Berg as Molly Goldberg in the iconic opening scene from her precedent-setting hit television program "The Goldbergs" which ran from 1949 to 1954. Shown with the obverse of the new Jewish-American Hall of Fame medal honoring the program and its multi-talented producer/writer/star.

The Jewish-American Hall of Fame inductee for 2015, radio and television pioneer Gertrude Berg (better known as Molly Goldberg), appears on delightful limited edition art medals sculpted by Eugene Daub.

The obverse depicts writer and performer Gertrude Berg as Molly Goldberg, leaning out of her



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Bronx apartment window shouting "Yoo-Hoo, Mrs. Bloom" (as she

Continued

Continued

pas, he was educated at Rome, a kind of honorable detention to guarantee his father's loyalty.

When Herod the Great died in 4 BCE, Philip became tetrarch of the outlying parts in the northeast of his father's kingdom: Gaulanitis (the Golan heights), Batanaea (or Basan, the southern part of modern Syria), Trachonitis and Auranitis (Hauran).

Among his subjects, the Jews were a minority; most people were of Syrian or Arabian descent. The latter had a nomadic way of life, although Herod had established some towns (such as Adraa, modern Dara).

Philip would continue this policy in the western half of his realm, strengthening the villages Paneas - at the sources of the Jordan - and Bethsaida, calling them Caesarea and Julias in honor of the emperor and his daughter Julia.

Philip the Tetrarch rebuilt the city of Caesarea Philippi, calling it by his own name to distinguish it from the port of Caesarea on the seacoast which was the seat of the Roman government.

To his nomadic subjects, Philip behaved as a sheik. He constantly travelled through their country with only a small entourage. When someone invoked his help, he im-



A map of the Judean region where the Herod Philip 13mm AE coin was struck in Caesarea Philippi in 30 CE.

mediately ordered his throne to be set down, heard the complaints and gave his opinion.

“His subjects in the cities considered this behavior rather remarkable, but the Arabs must have thought of their king as “one of us.”

He died at Julias in 34 CE, after a rule of 37 years. According to the Jewish historian Flavius Josephus, Philip was a person of moderation and quietness in the conduct of his life and government (*Jewish Antiquities*, 18.106).

Philip left no sons, and the emperor Tiberius added his realms to the province of Syria. When Tiberius died in 37, his successor Caligula almost immediately restored the principality; as its king, he appointed Philip's nephew Herod Agrippa.

Bibliography: www.geni.com



This jigsaw puzzle was given away by one of the sponsors of The Goldbergs radio show, when the audience did not know what the actors really looked like.

Continued

time, changing her name to Gertrude Berg.

Berg began writing radio scripts based on a fictional family from a short skit she had formulated as a young woman, now calling them “The Goldbergs,” a combination of her mother’s maiden name and her husband’s last name.

She is credited with writing most of the radio program’s scripts, which ran from 1929 to

1942.

The Goldbergs premiered on radio in 1929 with Gertrude filling in for the role of Molly until another actress could be found.

But her performances were so good that when she was sick for a week

the public sent in mass amounts of fan mail asking, “Where’s Molly?”

Audiences loved listening to the stories and struggles of the Goldberg family and their neighbors,

Continued

Gertrude Berg won the first-ever Best Actress Emmy for her role as Molly Goldberg



*The cover art from the 2010 Shout! Factory release of **The Goldbergs: The Ultimate Goldbergs** on DVD . The release includes all 71 extant episodes of the television series. The UCLA Film and Television Archive digitally restored all of the episodes, as well as provided 12 radio episodes for the DVD release and the pilot for the short lived series *Mrs. G Goes To College* (1961).*

Continued

and instantly took to the warmth and guidance of the accented Molly Goldberg character.

CBS executives knew they had a hit. As scriptwriter and star, Gertrude Berg was one of the leading women in radio with one of the longest running shows. Unlike Molly, Berg lived on Park Avenue, owned a country house, and did not speak with an accent or recite malapropisms. She wrote early in the morning, and then went to the studio to produce and star in her show—which she always opened with herself yelling out the window to her neighbor: “Yoo-Hoo, Mrs. Bloom.”

In 1947, following her 17-year run on radio, Gertrude saw television as a new exciting media, and a new opportunity to reinvigorate and reintroduce “The Goldbergs” following World War II.

“The Goldbergs” premiered on CBS in 1949. Gertrude Berg was lead writer, star, and producer yet again, and “The Goldbergs” climbed in popularity.

In 1950, Gertrude Berg won the first Best Actress Emmy Award in history; she had a clothing line for housewives, had published a cookbook, and was writing an advice column called “Mama Talks.”

Her television show was made

Continued



At left: Gertrude Berg working on a television script at her Park Avenue writing desk. She continued to write in pencil throughout the run of the show.



At right: An elegantly dressed Gertrude Berg in her garden in a 1954 portrait.

Continued

into a movie called “Molly” by Paramount Pictures.

The setting for “The Goldbergs” eventually moved from the Bronx to the suburbs, and continued until 1954, after which Berg wrote and produced a syndicated film version that remained on the air for another few years.

Berg went on to star in theatrical productions, and won a Tony in 1959 for best actress in “A Majority of One.” She appeared in a television presentation of “The Word of Sholom Aleichem” in the same year, and then returned

to television as writer and star in “Mrs. G Goes to College,” which later became known as “The Gertrude Berg Show.” She was the highest paid guest star at the time, and appeared with Steve Allen, Milton Berle, and Perry Como.

Gertrude Berg’s pioneering show “The Goldbergs” blazed the trail for “I Love Lucy” and all other sitcoms to follow! ☐

The current television hit “The Goldbergs” is not related to Gertrude Berg’s original show. Biography courtesy of Aviva Kempner, Producer of the film “Yoo-Hoo, Mrs. Goldberg.”

‘A CHISELER’S TRUE STORY’

THE ART OF MICO KAUFMAN



BOOK REVIEW:

BY DICK JOHNSON

PAPERBACK: 392 PAGES
PUBLISHER: CREATESPACE
INDEPENDENT PUBLISHING
PLATFORM (JANUARY 13,
2016). LANGUAGE: ENGLISH
ISBN-10: 1519571186
ISBN-13: 978-1519571182
AVAILABLE ONLINE OR CHECK
YOUR LOCAL BOOKSTORE.

Collectors of Presidential Inaugural Medals will recognize the name Mico Kaufman. While one of America’s greatest living sculptors, he has chosen an enigmatic name for his autobiography. While all of his more than 300 medals were modeled, he chose the title “A Chiseler’s True Story.”

Chisel implies carving, a typical method of creating sculpture. Kaufman is a master of both modeling and carving. At age 92 his life work reflects his mastery of four sculptural media



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– bronze, wood, pewter and polymer plastic – in a range of sizes from a 2-inch medal to an 18-foot monumental male figure.

His medallic work spans five de-

Continued



Mico Kaufman was the medallic sculptor for the National Medal of Technology and Innovation. The National Medal of Technology is the highest honor awarded by the President of the United States to America's leading innovators. Established by an act of Congress in 1980, the Medal of Technology was first awarded in 1985. The medal is given annually to individuals, teams, companies, or divisions of companies for their outstanding contribution to United States.

Continued

acades, first under the commission of Medallic Art Company which produced the majority of his medallic work starting with the Gerald R. Ford Vice Presidential Inaugural Medal. Later models were for Franklin Mint, Art Medals Inc. and Longines Wittnauer.

As such, his most noted medals were the four Inaugural medals for three presidents: two for Ford (as VP and President), Reagan's Second Inaugural and the George Bush Medal. His inaugural model of Jimmy Carter submitted to the Inaugural Committee by Medallic Art was outbid by Franklin Mint (by one million dollars) but Kaufman's was considered by all a far more lifelike and superior portrait.

The author quotes medal dealer Joseph Levine at the beginning of his chapter, "Medallic Sculpture," noting the artist's major impact on presidential medals. He also reprints a favor-

able article by Numismatic Literary Guild exec Ed Reiter in this chapter. Of numismatic interest Kaufman created two coins for Marshall Islands, and two badges for American Numismatic Association Conventions, 1973 and 1976.

While his total medal count – by my website listing – is 309, he created the obverses of 192 medals of the 200-medal series, "History of America," with reverses by MACO staff artist Ramon Gordils.

His Society of Medallists medal of 1973 bore a war-time theme. It was the first of nine medallic series – including United States Capitol Historical Society and four for Franklin Mint – in which he prepared one or more issues.

His medallic talents were recognized by both the ANA for their Sculptor of the Year Award in 1978 and the American Numismatic Society with their J. Sanford Saltus Award in 1992.

Continued



Top: Mico Kaufman's first foray into Presidential Inaugural Medals was the 1975 Inaugural medal for Vice President Gerald R. Ford.

At right: Mico Kaufman presented the plaster model of his Vice President Inaugural Medal to Gerald Ford at a White House ceremony. Within two years, Ford would become President upon the resignation of Richard M. Nixon, and Kaufman would design Ford's Presidential medal.



Continued

Mico Kaufman was born January 3, 1924 in Buzau, Romania. The first chapter of "A Chiseler's True Story" recounts his early life in a way seldom encountered in biographical literature, in brief takes, he calls "fractured snapshots."

Even so, the text reveals his Spartan youth, his leaving home at 17, a journey with bouts of illness and hunger – cured with sessions in several Kibbutzes – until he ends up in Rome

to study at the Academy of Fine Arts. Meanwhile he is attracted to a beautiful Greek girl he marries.

While much of this takes place in 1947, it is not until 1951 that he immigrates to America, preceded by an uncle. Those four years are not covered in the book. In America he works at modeling toys for a Nashua toy company. The pay is so low his wife, now with three children, leaves him, unable to cope as an artist's wife.

Kaufan does not mention this in his

Continued

Continued

book, but one of his creations in this early period was Burgerboy, the colorful trademark for the Burger Boy chain of restaurants.

Kaufman was introduced to medals by William Louth, president of Medallic Art, on a trip to their Danbury plant. Louth recognized the potential talent in the artist seated in his office and gave him a chance to prepare a relief model for the Ford Vice Presidential Medal.

Kaufman's design and model won over the submitted designs of four other artist. His model was placed in production and met with Ford's approval. It led to a second Ford Medal when Ford was named President and required his own Presidential Inaugural Medal.

Kaufman met with Ford in person at the White House ceremony awarding the President his gold medal. With this success he was commissioned to create George Bush's medal. This time he was allowed a 50-minute session to model the president from life.

Medallic commissions rained on the medallist, now considered a seasoned sculptor in bas-relief. Portraits, events, anniversaries, art medals, historical medals, all were gist for the artist's nimble fingers and creative mind. He kept busy.

(Mico and I served together on the Massachusetts American Bicentennial Medal contest. After winnowing down to three designs, the committee choose one. The artist's name did not appear



Mico Kaufman's medal for the inauguration of Gerald R. Ford in 1975. (All Presidential medal images courtesy micokaufman.com)

on the design. When the winner was identified, Mico exclaimed, "she's my former student.")

Kaufman's autobiography is the product of a very intelligent mind. The language, however, is not of the soft-spoken Mico I know. The book covers his other sculpture as well: bronze casts, monumental works, miniature pewter figures, and more recently, polymer sculpture.

The book is uneven in its editing. The Table of Contents lists the medallic sculpture chapter as "medallics." There is no such word. The last chapter, "Musings" is disconnected, as if the author wanted to record in print his every thought. The book lacks an index and the customary list of the artist's works with dates.

Even so it is an easy read and would appeal to any serious collector of Mico Kaufman medals offering rare insight to the artist and fascinating medallic lore to medals in their collection. Available in stiff card cover from Amazon for \$55. ☐

KAUFMAN'S JUDAIC HERITAGE, COMMISSIONED MEDALS DRAMATIC PORTRAITS IN BAS RELIEF



Mico Kaufman's medal of Henrietta Szold, founder of Hadassah who transformed it into one of Judaism's great social service organizations.

Mico Kaufman's long and extraordinary career was not just focused on medals for incoming U.S. Presidents, even though that series likely is his best known.

As an artist and sculptor, Kaufman did not - could not - shy away from his work, or his vision.

He lost his first marriage when his first job as an artist did not pay enough to support his wife and three children. She left. He stayed, and continued to persevere until, as reviewer Dick Johnson notes, he got his first big break in an interview with Medallic Art Co.



*JEWISH AMERICAN
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From that point forward, Kaufman's career was assured - not because someone gave him lucky breaks, but because his work was so superior to others at the time that even when he lost a competition for a commission, it was widely recognized that he could

Continued



Top: Mico Kaufman's plaster model for the medal honoring the murdered Israeli athletes of the 1972 Olympic Games captures the extreme anguish and grief in a competitor's collapse on a track.

At right: Kaufman's portrait and medal of U.S. statesman Henry Kissinger.



Continued
just as easily have been awarded the work.

The plaster model for a medal honoring the murdered Israeli athletes in Munich for the 20th Olympic Games balances iconic imagery against crushing grief of an athlete, perhaps representing all athletes, that dominates the

obverse. It is an exceedingly powerful image, graceful in its brutality.

Another medal shown on Mico Kaufman's website (micokaufman.com) is a statement on the Yom Kippur War of 1973 when the people of Israel were called from prayer to war and dealt the nation's enemies a crush-

Continued



Mico Kaufman's medal remembering the Yom Kippur War of 1973 balances many forces, many perspectives in a portrait dominated by the will, and the shofar.

*Commercial commissions for Mico Kaufman portrayed images of lesser importance in history, but the sculptor did not spare any of his talent, as this reverse of a medal he created and sculpted for Paramount Pictures and featuring Leonard Nimoy as the character Mr. Spock, at left, and William Shatner as the character Captain James T. Kirk. Both of these Jewish actors got their big break playing these characters in the original 1960's television series, *Star Trek*, and the subsequent series of movies that established the serial superhero genre.*



Continued
ing defeat. The medal, shown above, is a delicate balance of determination and faith, the rifle and the shofar, both wielded by the strength of those who serve, and both signifying perhaps the end of the Yom Kippur observance and the end of the war.

Either way, the message is very clear on this medal.

But Kaufman could be whimsical, almost playful, as some of his commercial commissions show. The reverse of a medal for Paramount Pic-

tures portrays the two main characters from the original television series and movie series of *Star Trek*.

Leonard Nimoy, as First Officer Mr. Spock and William Shatners as Captain James T. Kirk, are shown in the uniforms and makeup of their characters.

With more than 300 medals created, there is no doubt that Mico Kaufman is one of the premiere medallic sculptors in the world.

Collecting his medals poses a wor-

Continued



Mico Kaufman's medal for the Boston Jubilee marking the 350th anniversary of the founding of the city shows a range of iconography from the early days of the first Pilgrims to the jet age and beyond. The design of both faces of this medal are more elaborate than the designs of many of Kaufman's other medals, which tended to use a balance of strong single-idea images either alone or against each other. Either way, Kaufman is a master of the form.



SOCIETY OF MEDALLISTS Issue No. 87, 1973, by Mico Kaufman. Nude youth with guitar / Soldier carrying wounded

Continued



Among Miko Kaufman's commissioned medals, these three are among the stand-outs.

At left: Benjamin Franklin is the seated luminary in the portrait of the medal celebrating the 200th anniversary of the Treaty of Paris.

Below, center: Pioneer in early computers Dr. An Wang is portrayed on a medal commissioned by Wang Laboratories.

Below, right: Yes, it's Michael Jackson, shown in one of the more dignified public poses of the King of Pop.



Continued

thy, if not impossible, challenge for those who seek a complete set.

From medals with a Judaic heritage theme, to medals of U.S. Presidents and the even larger trove of medals created for commercial commissions, the field of collecting Kaufman's medals is wide open. ▢



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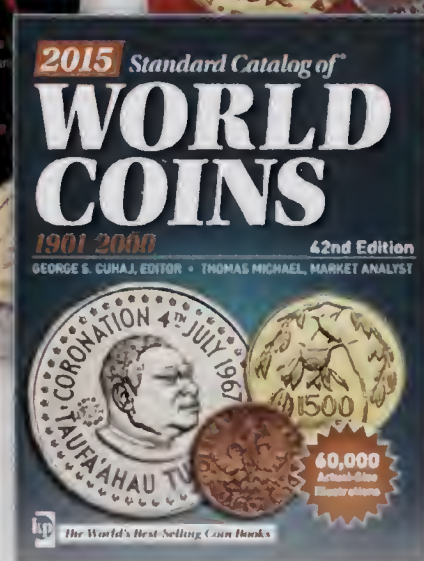
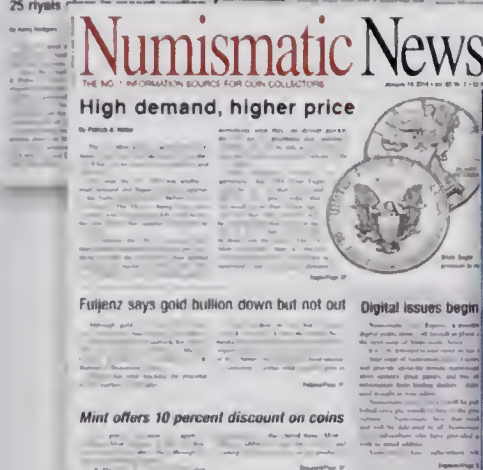
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